

12 February 2021

Dear Parents and Carers

### **End of half term update**

As we come to the end of the first half term of 2021 I want to thank you all again for your support, partnership and resilience in supporting your remote learning so far this year. We are in no doubt just how challenging remote learning can be and we truly appreciate all you have done.

It has been a huge privilege to see the quality of work from many students and the obvious huge effort that young people are making with their learning. The highlight of my week is to send out the Headteacher's commendation certificates based on the recommendation of colleagues.

Earlier this week Mrs Finch sent out an update on remote learning which was based on your feedback. This can be found here: <https://stocksbridgehigh.co.uk/news-article/2021-02-10/parental-feedback-letter-feb-2021>. Mr Tipson also distributed information on wellbeing and mental health: <https://stocksbridgehigh.co.uk/news-article/2021-02-12/healthy-minds-letter-110221>. Please do take the opportunity to read both and complete the Healthy Minds parent and carer questionnaire as it will really help us plan support and training for when we can return to school. The questionnaire can be found here: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/Healthy-Minds-Parentcarer-survey-Jan-2021>

If you are continuing to have technical issues accessing remote learning then please now contact the school on [helpdesk@stocksbridgehighschool.freshservice.com](mailto:helpdesk@stocksbridgehighschool.freshservice.com)

School is closed for half term and we will not be providing remote learning for the break. If your child has been in school this week and develops Covid symptoms or tests positive up to and including Monday 15 February 2021 then you must notify us on [contacttracing@stocksbridgehigh.co.uk](mailto:contacttracing@stocksbridgehigh.co.uk). If there has been a positive case we will determine whether there has been close contact in school and contact any families affected by text. After Monday 15 February 2021, please inform NHS Track and Trace. Reception will be closed; any queries should be e-mailed to: [enquiries@stocksbridgehigh.sheffield.sch.uk](mailto:enquiries@stocksbridgehigh.sheffield.sch.uk) (emails will be monitored intermittently).

We are assured by the Prime Minister that on Monday 22 February 2021 the government will reveal a roadmap out of lockdown and this will include national plans for how we will return to school. At the time of writing I have no further details of this other than it may possibly commence on 8 March 2021. Please be assured that we will work within all guidelines to provide a safe and appropriate return to school and we will announce our programme as soon as is possible.

Similarly, we still do not yet have the final details as to what will replace the exams for Y11 students in the summer. I realise that this could be causing uncertainty and anxiety for students and families affected but try and remember that the whole country is in the same position. Schools will be asked to provide grades based on a wide range of evidence. When we do return to school there will certainly be rounds of assessments to help us do that amongst other things. In the meantime, all we can ask is that students keep up with remote learning, engage fully and try their very hardest. Again, as soon as we are able then we will let you know the process and timeline for awarding grades in 2021.

Straight after the half term break we will be issuing option forms to all Y9 students. Over the last few weeks we have been sharing information on the process and discussing it with families and students.



We are really impressed by the care and consideration of our students in making their choices, not just for the next two years but for what future opportunities and careers paths they will open up.

Have a lovely half term break and thank you again for your brilliant partnership.

Yours sincerely

Mr. A. Ireland  
Headteacher  
Stocksbridge High School

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